Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument
&
Lake Meredith National Recreation Area

Junior Ranger Activity Booklet

Safety Always Comes First

While working to become a Junior Ranger, remember that safety always comes first. Never do anything that might put you, or others, in danger. Some of the most important safety rules are listed below.

- Drink plenty of water, even if you do not feel thirsty. The panhandle winds make this a very dry place and you can quickly become dehydrated.
- Watch where you put your hands and feet. Dark places under rocks and bushes are likely homes for snakes, spiders and scorpions. Given a chance, most critters will get out of your way.
- Treat all wildlife with respect. You are a visitor to their home, treat them as you would expect to be treated by a guest in your home. Never pick up any wildlife.
- Be especially careful around plants, many have thorns or stickers. Cacti have spines you can't even see and Yucca hurt if you brush against them.
- When picking up litter, if it is not readily identified as ordinary roadside litter, leave it and report it to a Park Ranger. If possible wear gloves when picking up litter.

Welcome to Lake Meredith National Recreation Area and Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument's Junior Ranger Program!

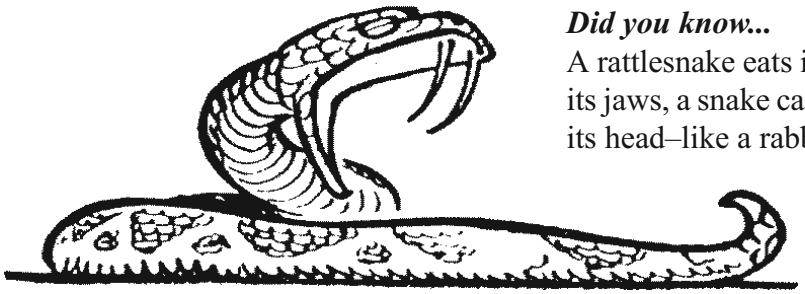
Junior Rangers are special and important people. They help park rangers protect plants, animals, rocks, and historic sites. They pick up litter and put it in trash cans. Junior Rangers know that national parks are special places that need to be protected so they will be just as special in the future.

Would you like to be a Junior Ranger at Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument and Lake Meredith National Recreation Area? To earn your badge complete the activities in your age group. When you are finished take this booklet to park headquarters. A park ranger will check your answers and issue you a Junior Ranger badge.

Under Age 7	Age 7 to 11	Ages 12 and Over
Complete pages 3, 6, 7	Complete pages 3, 4, 6, 7, 10	Complete pages 2-10
Collect a Bag of Trash Page 5	Collect a Bag of Trash Page 5	Collect a Bag of Trash Page 5
Do Naturalist's Notebook Page 11	Do Naturalist's Notebook Page 11	Do Naturalist's Notebook Page 11

If you are unable to finish the Junior Ranger program while you are visiting the park, please mail your completed activity book to:

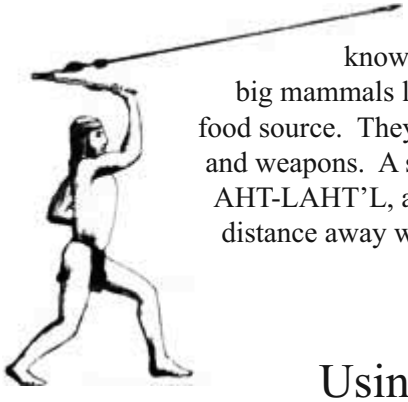
Division of Interpretation
Junior Ranger Program
PO Box 1460
Fritch, Texas, 79036



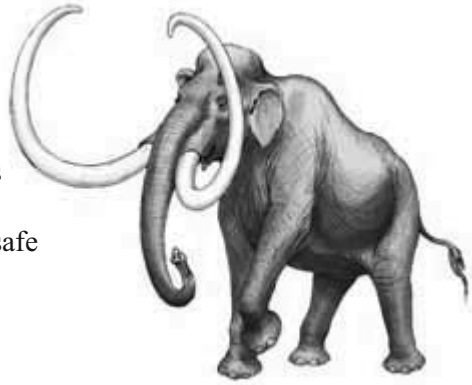
Did you know...
A rattlesnake eats its prey whole–head first. By unhinging its jaws, a snake can eat something several times the size of its head–like a rabbit!

A Discovery of Cultures....

People have been coming to the quarry pits for more than 12,000 years, utilizing the land for tools, weapons, clothing, and food. Archeologists are the scientists that help us learn about those who came before and how they lived.



During the Pleistocene, more commonly known as the ice age, hunters were looking for big mammals like Mammoths and prehistoric bison as a food source. They used agatized dolomite to make stone tools and weapons. A special tool, called an Atlatl, pronounced AHT-LAHT'L, allowed the hunters to throw a spear from a safe distance away when hunting these giant mammals.



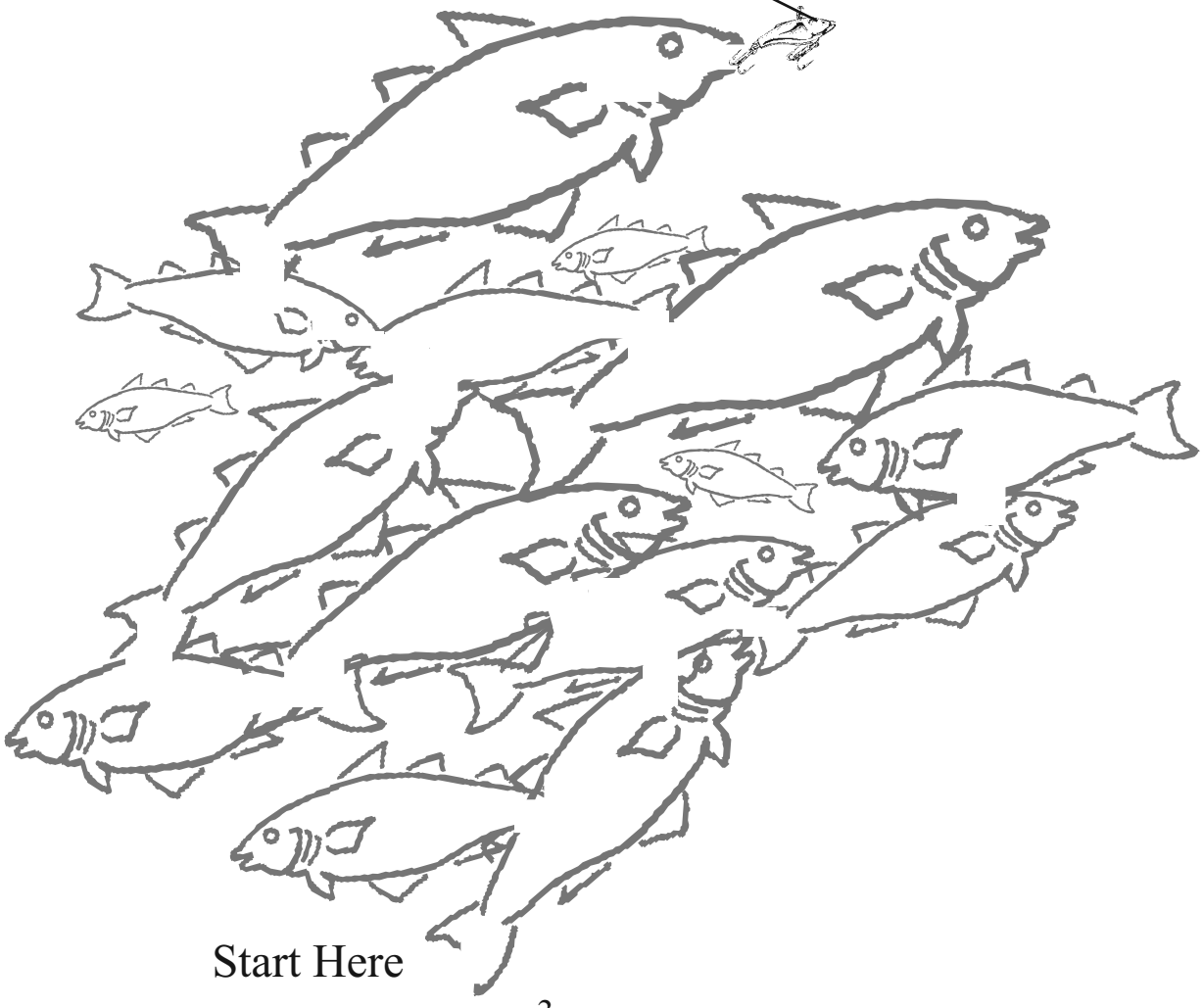
Using the numbers, solve the cryptogram:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

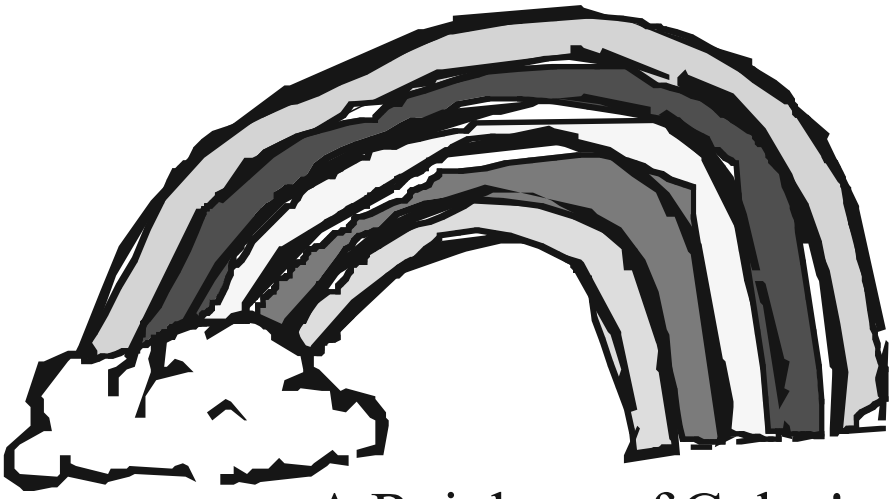
__ __ __ \

A-Maze-ing Fish

Lake Meredith is a great place to fish. Popular sport fish include Walleye, White Bass, Smallmouth Bass, White Crappie, Largemouth Bass, and Catfish.



Start Here



A Rainbow of Color!

Where did all of this brightly colored rock come from? Legend says that early inhabitants of the Alibates area were waiting for rains after a long drought. Finally the rains came and afterwards a beautiful rainbow lingered in the sky for days, weeks, and even months. One day, a man went to take a closer look at the rainbow.

When he reached out to touch the rainbow he discovered it was as hard as rock, a petrified rainbow. As word of this magic rainbow spread, more and more people came to see it. Soon the people were chipping at its base so they could take a piece of the rock home with them.

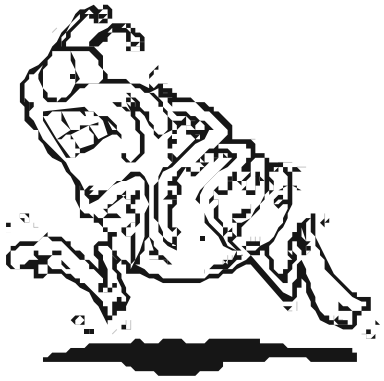
One day, winds swept across the bluffs and the rainbow began to sway back and forth. Soon the rainbow fell over and shattered into millions of pieces covering the ground in gleaming shards of brightly colored flint. That's how the rainbow hues of flint came to be.... or so the legend says!

How many colors of flint did you find during your tour of Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument? Put a check next to each color you saw.

____Red	____Orange	____Yellow	____Blue
____Gray	____White	____Pink	____Black
____Purple	____Maroon	____Brown	____Green

Did you know...

A fearsome-looking lizard, the Horned Lizard rarely eats anything other than ants. Be sure to watch for Horned Lizards along the trail at Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument!



Don't Be A Litterbug

People from all over the world visit Lake Meredith National Recreation Area and Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument. In fact, over one million visitors come here each year. That's a lot of people! Some visitors come to swim, fish, camp, or hike and they bring food and supplies for their trip. Almost everyone throws away some kind of garbage. Fortunately most people put trash where it belongs – in the garbage can. But, a few careless people leave trash along roads and trails and in campsites. It takes this trash years to decompose (that means to rot away).

This is how long it takes some trash to decompose:

Banana Peel ……3 to 4 weeks
Orange Peel……6 months
Milk/Juice Carton…5 years
Cigarette Butt……..12 years
Leather Shoes……..25 to 40 years
Nylon Cloth……30 to 40 years
Plastic container……..50 to 80 years
Aluminum……90 to 100 years
Plastic 6-pack holder……450 years
Plastic Foam…….Over 100 years

Collect a Bag of Trash from the Park!

When picking up litter, if it is not readily identified as ordinary roadside litter, leave it and report it to a Park Ranger. If possible, wear gloves when picking up litter.

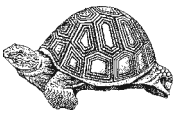
Did you know...

Coyotes are most active at night. They can reach speeds of up to 40 mph when running down prey such as a weakened deer.

The Web Of Life:
Who's for Lunch?

Whiptail Lizard

Great Blue Heron

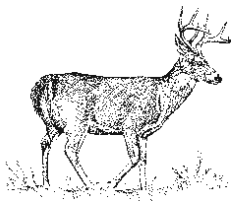

Box Turtle

Rattlesnake

Ant

Jack Rabbit

Coyote


White-tailed Deer

Horned Lizard

Beetle

Roadrunner

Plains Minnow

Every creature has to eat, which means some will be eaten too!
Draw a line from the creature to its lunch and
a web will form before your eyes.

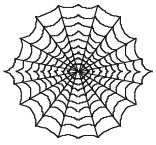
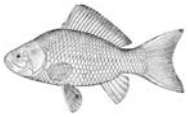
A food web starts with the Sun. The Sun provides energy for plants to grow and, in turn, plants supply food for animals. Animals that eat only plants are called Herbivores. Animals that eat only meat are called Carnivores. Animals that eat plants and meat are called Ominovres. Which are you?

Did you know...
The Road-Runner is an awkward flyer, who can run up to 15 mph in search of lizards, scorpions, rodents, and snakes.

Take a closer LOOK

Look up, look down, look all around.
Each of these things can be found somewhere in the park.
When you find one of the items below, mark it.
When you have a whole row, diagonal or horizontal, you have a

BINGO

Animal Tracks	 Spider Web	Park Ranger Badge	Deer
Grasshopper	Lizard	Litter	Prickly Pear Cactus
Butterfly	Yucca	 Fish	Tent
Dolomite Rock	Quail	Dragonfly	Mesquite Tree

Fun Fact

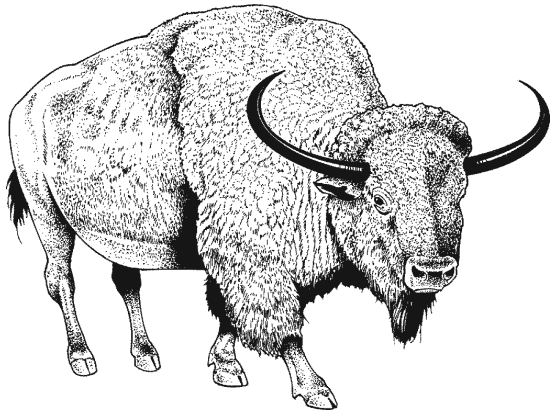
American Indians used yucca plants for many things. The roots were used as soap, the flowers were eaten like a salad, and the leaves were woven into rope, sandals, baskets, and mats.

Take a closer LOOK

Word Search

I P A Y P L G J D H E M A C L I C B S F
T R A I L E T X E X E T L L W I I W E X
Z M A M M O T H E B H S I O L S Z S I A
S E N O B T U R R H F W B M O K N A R Q
H A M M E R S T O N E N A N O I R T R F
G N O F R B Q N T G I V T Y U L I P A D
P X O X A Q H I U R L J E R U F O Z U S
C O Y D I E R L R P T Y S A A C O D Q S
T H Y R N A C F T D E Y P C H B C J R K
N A W I B N A B L V T T T H V E J A D G
C E Q L O O Q Y E G R S Z W K B N I T R
B J S L W N C A N A D I A N M I X W V Y

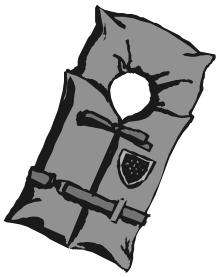
ALIBATES
ARTIFACTS
BISON
BONES
CANADIAN
DEER
DOLOMITE
DRILL
FLINT
FOOT
HAMMERSTONE
LIZARD
MAMMOTH
PETROGLYPH
QUARRIES
RAINBOW
RUINS
TRAIL
TURTLE
YUCCA

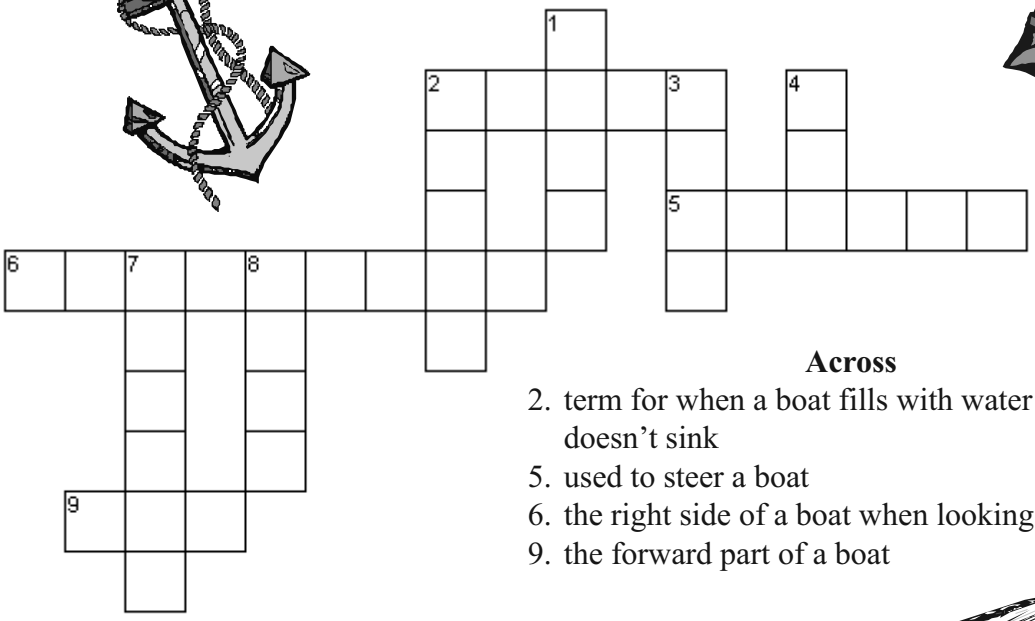


Fun Fact

Paleontologists have learned that during its long history, the bison went through many changes. At one point in its evolution, a prehistoric bison, *Bison latifrons*, had horns measuring nine feet from tip to tip. That's one BIG bison!

Nautical Knowledge Cross Word Puzzle



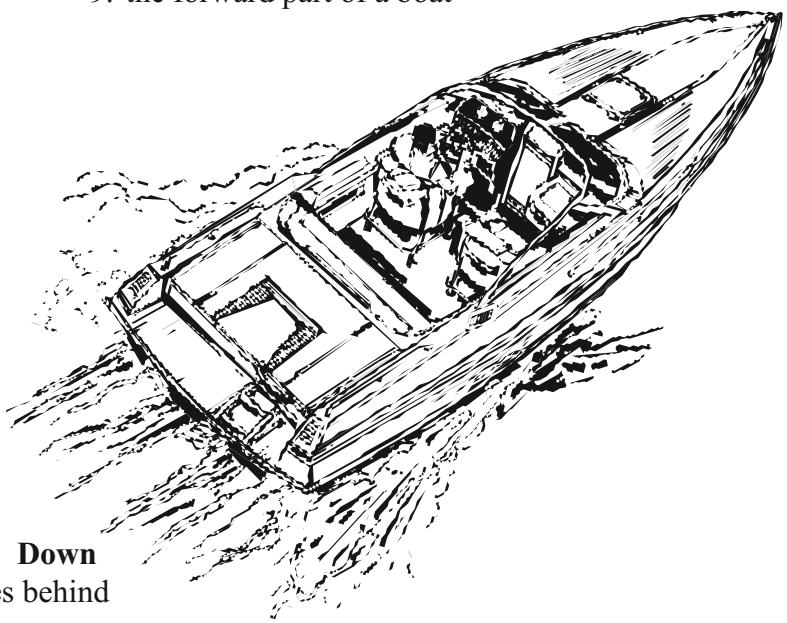


Across

2. term for when a boat fills with water but doesn't sink
5. used to steer a boat
6. the right side of a boat when looking forward
9. the forward part of a boat

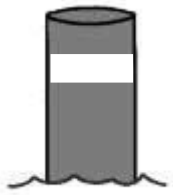
Word List

anchor	rudder
bow	starboard
buoy	stern
PFD	swamp
port	wake



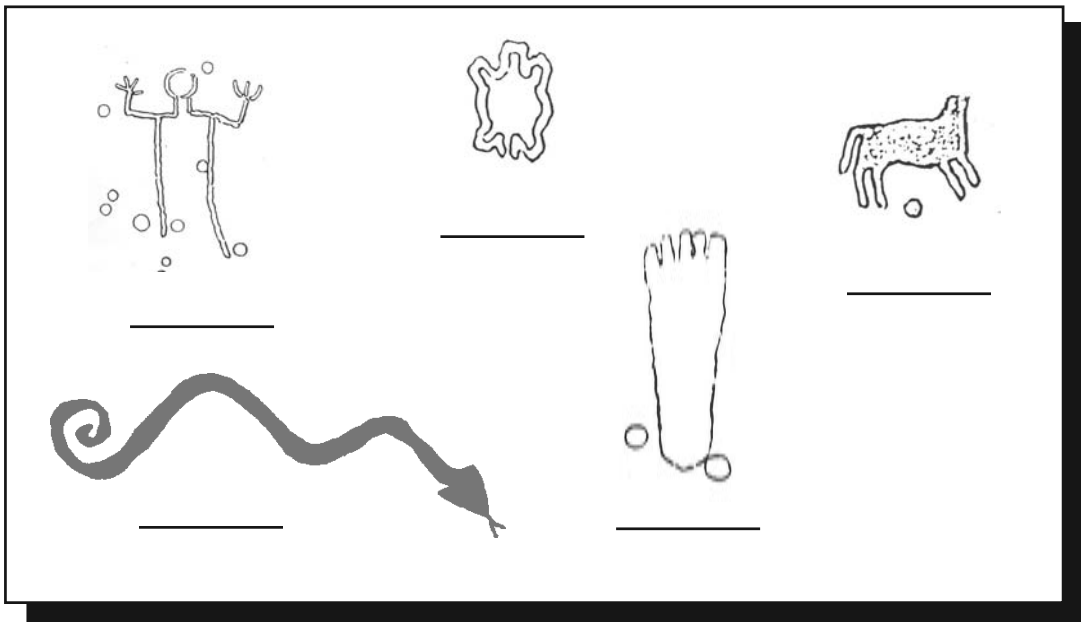
Down

1. the moving wave a boat leaves behind
2. the back part of a boat
3. the left side of a boat when looking forward or a harbor
4. also called a lifevest or life jacket this **P**ersonal **F**lotation **D**evice helps you float in the water if you fall overbaord
7. a metal device cast overboard to hold the boat in place
8. an anchored float used for marking a position on the water or a hazard



Symbols Of The Past And Present

American Indians of the Southwest did not have a written language like we do today. Instead, their history was passed on through stories, petroglyphs and pictographs. Petroglyphs are made by scratching or pecking a rock surface, and pictographs are made by painting the surface. Here are some symbols used in the petroglyphs and pictographs of the American Southwest. What do you think they might represent?



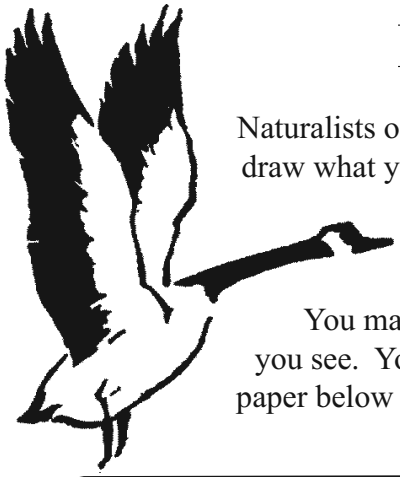
Today we also use symbols in our written language. A thousand years from now scientists may have to guess the meaning of our symbols. Can you draw the correct symbol for each of the words below?

1. ____question mark 2. ____dollars 3. ____at 4. ____percent 5. ____number

6. ____musical note 7. ____exclamation 8. ____and 9. ____multiply 10. ____equals

@ ? * ! % ♫

x & = # $



Did you see that!!!!!

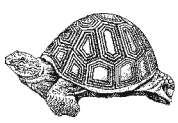
Naturalists often carry a notebook to record things that they have seen. If you write or draw what you see, you won't forget it. You can keep a record of all the animals, plants, and places that you see. You can also keep track of other details: what were the animals doing when you saw them? What types of tracks did they leave behind? What was the weather doing?

You may want to keep a naturalist's notebook throughout the year to record what you see. You can begin today by keeping a record of your adventures here. Use the paper below to record what you have seen and done on your trip.

Naturalist's Notebook

Did you know...

Ornate Box Turtles have a purple tongue – all the better to eat beetles, roaches and crickets with!



Junior Ranger Book Answers:

1. ? question mark 2. $ dollars 3. @ at 4. % percent 5. # number

6. ♫ musical note 7. ! exclamation 8. & and 9. x multiply 10. = equals

M	A	M	M	O	T	H
13	1	13	13	15	20	8

B	I	S	O	N
2	9	19	15	14

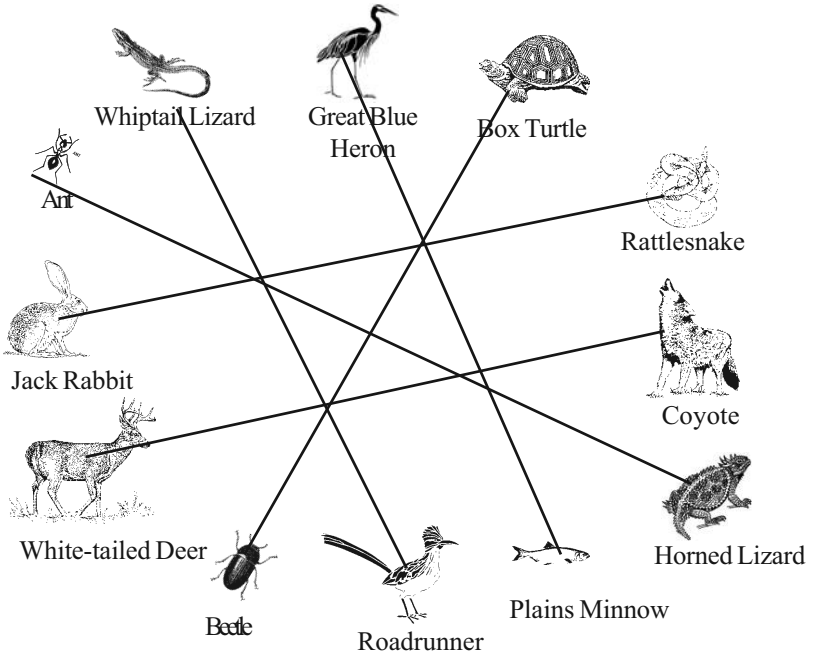
S	P	E	A	R
19	16	5	1	18

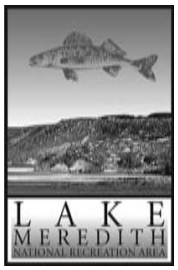
R	A	N	C	H	E	R
18	1	14	3	8	5	18

I P A Y R L G J D H E M A C L I C B S F
T R A I L E T X E X E T L L W I I W E X
Z M A M M O T H E B H S I O L S Z S I A
S E N O B T U R R H F W B M O K N A R Q
H A M M E R S T O N E N A N O I R T R F
G N O F R B Q N T G I V T Y U L I P A D
P X O X A Q H I U R L J E R U F O Z U S
C O Y D I E R L R P T Y S A A C O D Q S
T H Y R N A C F T D E Y R C H B C J R K
N A W I B N A B L V T T T H V E J A D G
C E Q L O O Q Y E G R S Z W K B N I T R
B J S L W N C A N A D I A N M I X W V Y

Across
2. Swamp
5. Rudder
6. Starboard
9. Bow

Down
1. Wake
2. Stern
3. Port
4. PFD
7. Anchor
8. Buoy

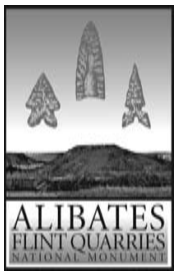




This Certifies That

_____

has completed the Junior Ranger Program at



Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument
&
Lake Meredith National Recreation Area

and is hereby considered an official

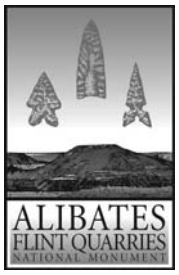
Junior Ranger

Awarded on the _____ day of _____, 20____

_____

Ranger

Produced by
Lake Meredith National Recreation Area and
Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument
Division of Interpretation and Visitor Services
June 2004



Special Thanks:
Ian Breheny for Columbian Mammoth Drawing©
Bureau of Land Management for Atlatl Drawing